



CALPEEK

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SPEAKERSHIP WARS: INSIDERS HAVE FEW CLUES.

Editor's note: The CA Assembly will meet on Jan. 4th for the start of a new 2-year session. And of course the chief topic of discussion among insiders is who will be picked as Speaker. Here is CALPEEK's update & analysis...

...Insiders haven't the foggiest idea of what's really going to happen --- other than lots of fireworks. The Republicans have 40 members, Demos 39 and then there's maverick Paul Horcher (see recall story inside), who sided with the Demos on Dec. 5, causing a 40-40 deadlock on the first go-round in the Speakership War between Demo Willie Brown and GOP Assembly Leader Jim Brulte...

...Best guess is that Assembly Chief Clerk Dotson Wilson, a Brown appointee, *won't show* and Willie will assume the role of "senior member/presiding officer." That's not the same as Speaker. Then things begin to get dicey. Will Brown try to oust Richard Mountjoy (R-Arcadia) from the Assembly? Remember, Mountjoy was elected to both the Assembly and the State Senate on Nov. 8th. Mountjoy has a new senate office assigned to him and he did caucus with Senate Republicans. But Mountjoy wants to stay in the Assembly until a GOP member is elected Speaker and his vote may be critical. Mountjoy is armed with an AG's opinion saying it takes 54 votes to oust a member. But it's only an opinion. Mountjoy may go to court and get some kind of order banning Willie from expelling him. But with Mountjoy out of the Assembly, Brown could be elected Speaker, 40 to 39. This would cause a huge political brouhaha and undoubtedly a series of recall elections would take place against selected Demos. Demos don't want that to happen...

...What next? Most insiders assume that Brulte has been talking to a handful of Demos, who might be

willing to cross party lines. Does he have any lined up? And insiders are sure that Demos, other than Brown, have been talking to GOP members -- not about voting for Willie, but about finding a *compromise* GOP Speaker. That's a real possibility. Willie realizes it was only a matter of luck that Horcher fell into his lap...

...At this point, however, the Speakership is Brulte's to win or lose. If there's another deadlocked vote, then there could be some shifting in the GOP ranks. Some GOP members *were not thrilled* when Brulte failed to line up the votes before Dec. 5. In other words, despite outward appearances of unity, *there could be trouble brewing*. On the other hand, if Brulte wins, then it's only a matter of picking the Majority Leader. And here's where GOP blood may get spilled. Look for open war between the well-liked Bernie Richter of Chico and Curt Pringle of Garden Grove. In fact, if Brulte doesn't make Speaker, one of these two might be the compromise candidate. FYI: keep your eyes on Doris Allen of Orange Co. If she thinks Brulte has been playing favorites with Ross Johnson behind her back in the upcoming special to replace Marian Bergeson in the State Senate, watch out. Stay tuned...

YEAR IN REVIEW AND POLITICAL PREDICTIONS FOR 1995.

Editor's note: Here's a quick review of some of the top political events in Calif. of 1994, plus some 1995 predictions...

● **The Top Story of 1994** - It should have been Pete Wilson's come-from-behind reelection victory over Kathleen Brown (D). But just as the year was ending, the totally unexpected happened in Orange County. So the top story for 1994 (still unfolding) is the financial crisis & the nation's largest municipal bankruptcy in Orange County...

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- **Other Big Stories of 1994** - The Jan. 17th L.A. earthquake; the big election win by Republicans in the CA State Assembly; the ongoing Speakership Wars (with the Horcher Recall); the O.J. Simpson murder trial; and the passage of Prop. 187...
- **Biggest Shock for CA GOP in '94** - Failing to win the Assembly Speakership on Dec. 5th. New motto for Assembly Republicans: "If at first you don't succeed, try again."...
- **Political Weapon of Choice for 1995** - *The Recall*, a political tool of the reform movement of 1910 - the year Hiram Johnson was elected governor...
- **Prediction** - The current effort to recall Assemblyman Paul Horcher(I-Diamond Bar) will succeed...
- **New Spin on an Old Ode** - 'Twas the night before session and all through the house, not a member was stirring except for one louse." Author: GOP Assemblywoman Barbara Alby of Sacto. No need to tell you who she thinks the louse is. Alby's ode gets better, but we don't have the space to run it. Call Scott Silva at (916)445-4445...
- **Out of the Loop** - And out of a job is Calif.'s favorite presidential press secretary Dee Dee Myers, the first woman to ever hold that post...
- **Prediction** - Calif. Gov. Pete Wilson's name will be on Calif.'s March 26, 1996 GOP presidential primary ballot as a favorite son candidate..
- **Economic Forecast** - It's mostly good news for CA, as the State is pulling out of a deep recession. High tech, entertainment, agriculture and small business leading the way. Bad news: San Diego may take it on the chops in the next round of military base closings...
- **That Great Sucking Sound** - With the devaluation of the Mexican Peso, maybe Ross Perot was right about NAFTA...
- **Favorite Wonk for 1995** - State Sen. Tom Hayden(D-Santa Monica)...
- **New Words for 2nd Half of the 1990s** - *Devolution* (conservative term for down-sizing the

federal government); *infobahn* (just another way of saying the information superhighway); *reverse-repo's* (stands for reverse repurchase agreements and that's one of the things that got Orange Co. into trouble)...

- **Newest Excuse for Losing an Election** - *Voter fraud*. Very trendy, but CA isn't Chicago, New Jersey, New York or Texas...
- **Legislative Prediction** - Now that State Sen. David Roberti(D-Van Nuys) is gone, look for new State Sen. Jim Costa(D-Fresno) to once again renew his efforts to punch a hole in *rent control*...
- **Prediction** - O.J. Simpson will be found guilty...
- **'Til Hell Freezes Over** - That's the old saying. The new phrase of 1995 is, "When Huffington concedes." Stay tuned...

THE HORCHER RECALL: 60th A.D. GOP GEARING UP. Republican activists in the 60th A.D. now represented by Assemblyman Paul Horcher(I-Diamond Bar) are just about ready to begin the first phase of a formal recall against Horcher. Anti-Horcher activists describe Horcher as a *Benedict Arnold* who committed a political *Pearl Harbor* by voting for Demo Willie Brown for Speaker on Dec. 5th instead of GOPer Jim Brulte...

...Recall coordinator Jim Camp says to qualify the cmt. will need 18,874 valid signatures. That means the recall cmt. will collect about 25,000 --- and all will be computer-checked in advance of turn-in. GOP consultant Wayne Johnson also is involved. The recall phone is 1-800-GOP-60th...

...There's little doubt the cmt. will collect the required signatures, but from there on it gets a little more complex. In a recall, there are 2 questions: A) should Horcher be recalled? B) who shall replace Horcher? Some early polling indicates there's enough anger to recall Horcher, but what's not clear just yet is who will replace him. There are at least 4 GOP activists from the district who want to run: West Covina School Bd. member Mike Spence, Barbara Stone, Diamond Bar councilman Gary Miller and Lincoln Club chair Mike Radlovic. But all would probably bow out IF former L.A. Co. Sup. Pete Schabarum enters the contest...

...Could Willie Brown and the Demos spoil things? Yes they could --- and knife Horcher in the back at the same time. If Schabarum stays out and it's a group battle with 3-4 GOPers and a single Demo, the Demos *might* pull an upset. Unlike a special, in a recall it's winner-take-all, no runoff...

...FYI: One of the best inside stories to surface about why Horcher voted against Brulte was written by S.F. Chron Sacto bureau chief Greg Lucas. In the article, Horcher says he talked to former Assemblyman Gil Ferguson of Newport Beach --- who supposedly told Horcher not to trust Brulte. Ferguson denies saying that, but doesn't deny talking to Horcher. There has been friction between Brulte & Ferguson for some time over the upcoming 35th S.D. special to replace Marian Bergeson. Ferguson believes Brulte is siding with rival Ross Johnson. Stay tuned...

PAUL ERDMAN AT COMMONWEALTH CLUB.

Economist/author Paul Erdman begins the 1995 Commonwealth Club of CA speaking schedule with an economic forecast for 1995. 11:45 a.m., Jan. 6, Sheraton Palace Hotel, S.F. For info & RSVPs, call (415)597-6705...

ORANGE CO.'S FISCAL MESS: WINNERS & LOSERS.

Editor's note: The \$2.02 billion (and possibly bigger) loss suffered by Orange Co.'s Investment Pool (with 187 agencies, cities, school districts, special districts, etc.) has caused the nation's largest municipal bankruptcy. While CALPEEK couldn't begin to tell you about *reverse repurchase agreements*, we do know how to assess *political damage* and there is plenty of that. So here's our list of Orange County's political **Winners & Losers**...

● **Robert L. Citron** - For 23 years the former county tax collector/treasurer was a hero. Now his career has been shattered and his reputation destroyed...

● **Thomas F. Riley & Harriett M. Wieder** - They just retired as Orange Co. Supervisors, but what a terrible way to end their careers...

● **Supervisor Roger R. Stanton** - Of the remaining 3 supes from the 1994 board, he's the first to be hit with a recall. For a guy who was supposed to be a fiscal con-

servative/budget expert, sources say he was asleep on the job. He's toast...

● **Supervisor Gaddi H. Vasquez** - Once thought to have a promising career beyond the Orange Co. Board of Supes, he's had it. Another likely recall target...

● **Supervisor William Steiner** - He's the newest of the board members, having been elected in 1993. Some sources say the *jury is still out* on Steiner, but others think he's in trouble too...

● **John M.W. Moorlach** - He may have lost the County Treasurer's election to Citron, but he rang the alarm bell. Too bad so few listened to him. He has a gold card with unlimited political credit. Winner...

● **New Sup. Marian Bergeson** - The former State Senator comes to the Bd. of Supes with *baggage*. She carried some of the legislation which gave Citron and others treasurers more freedom; she was chair of the Local Govt. Cmt., where all of the legislation dealing with muni finance had to pass through; and she endorsed Moorlach, but then pulled her support. She doesn't look good right now, but Bergeson's got *political teflon* and that may protect her. We'll see...

● **Tom Umberg** - The former Demo assemblyman from Garden Grove didn't play a large part in this fiasco, but he did carry one bill in 1992 and this could be used against him in the future --- if he runs again...

● **Gil Ferguson** - The former assemblyman is running for Bergeson's 35th S.D. senate job and he may be in a better position now than he was before this fiscal fiasco began. He has laid part of the blame on "lawmakers who carry bills they know nothing about." Is that an indirect slap at Bergeson? Yes indeed...

● **Assemblyman Ross Johnson** - He has a very low profile with this mess, but there's no doubt he was hoping Bergeson's support would help him win her senate job. The two had been seen together at campaign events in Orange Co. during the 1994 election cycle. Now Bergeson's endorsement may be the kiss of death. Will Ferguson use this against Ross? Probably...

● **The Cmts. of Correspondence** - It's a countywide taxpayers group that may not be a household word now, but will be when the recall stuff starts to fly.

CALPEEK's INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

- **San Diego's THE Place** - The GOP Presidential Convention is all set for San Diego, so mark your calendars for Aug. 12-15, 1996. The city will put up \$10-16 million for organizing costs, but the 20,000-plus delegates, guests, media types and others will spend upwards of \$41 million. The Convention Center might be a little crowded, but so what. A big **gold star** for Mayor Susan Golding...

- **How Savvy Is Kathleen Connell?** - The new Demo controller is savvy enough to appoint former Acting SOS Tony Miller as her chief deputy. Very smart move, Kathleen...

- **Century Cable's Rosendahl Honored** - Bill Rosendahl, host/interviewer & producer of Century Cable TV's Week In Review Show (plus other election specials) will be honored Feb. 8th with a *Freedom of Information Award* by the L.A. Chp. of the Society of Professional Journalists. Although this award has gone to other TV journalists/interviewers, this is a first for a cable TV interviewer/host...

- **Recall Wars** - According to the CA SOS's Office, recall papers have been taken out on Assemblymembers Paul Horcher(I-Diamond Bar); Mike Machado(D-Linden); Dede Alpert(D-San Diego); and Sal Cannella(D-Modesto)...

- **Wanted: New Assembly Chief Clerk** - Don't know what the future holds for the "current" Assembly Chief Clerk, Dotson Wilson, a longtime Willie Brown appointee, but when the GOP finally gets control of the CA State Assembly, source say the person mentioned most frequently to take over as chief clerk is none other than former Assemblyman Tom McClintock...

- **Another Look at the 37th C.D.** - Add the name of State Sen. Diane Watson(D-L.A.) to the list of possible candidates should current U.S. Rep. Walter Tucker III (D-Compton) be convicted of political corruption charges and forced to resign. He denies any wrong doing, but is set for trial in February. Also watching things closely are Assemblymembers Williard Murray and Juanita McDonald...

PCL HOLDS 12th ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONF.

The Planning & Conservative League Foundation's 12th annual Environmental Legislative Symposium will be held Jan. 7-8, Sacramento City College. Invited speakers include EPA's Carol Browner, CA EPA Sec. James Strock, CA Resources Sec. Douglas Wheeler. Registration fee for the 2-day conference is \$90. For info call Jamie Phillips (916)444-8726, ext. 86...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- A sad note: over the holidays former CA LG and Congressman Glenn Anderson(D-San Pedro) died of complications from Alzheimer's disease. R.I.P...

- Cordoba Internat'l, a subsidiary of L.A.-based Cordoba Corp., has hired former State Sen. Art Torres(D-L.A.) as president...

- Erin Riggs joins The PBN Co. as an AE, while Deirdre Burke joins as an asst. AE. Both will work out of PBN's Sacto office...

- Former U.S. Sen. John Seymour(R) resigns as head of the CA Finance Authority & moves to Palm Desert...

- Dan Schnur still hasn't decided whether to return to Gov. Pete Wilson's office or move into the private sector. Schnur was Wilson's chief spin doctor during the 1994 reelection campaign...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

- **RESEARCH ASSOCIATE:** Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates. Two years professional experience in a political/government staff position or opinion research firm analyzing quantitative data, writing interpretive reports. Must be current with political trends. Send resume with salary history Attn: Jean, 2401 Colorado Ave., #180, Santa Monica, CA 90404 or FAX to (310)453-6562...

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